

Proposition 4:

Critical Protection and Preparedness for Wildfire and Extreme Heat





WHO ARE WE?

Greenbelt Alliance's mission is to educate, advocate, and collaborate

to ensure the Bay Area's lands and communities are resilient to a changing climate.

Wildfire in California

1. **7.5 million acres** of land across the state of California have been burned by wildfires just since 2020 (CALFIRE)
2. **More than 50,000 premature deaths** have occurred during the last decade due to inhalation of wildfire smoke
3. **More than \$400 billion lost** in economic impact via destruction of property and businesses



Wildfire & Proposition 4: A \$1.5 Billion Investment

Of the climate resilience funding provided by Proposition 4, \$1.5 billion will go to wildfire-related protections and planning:

- **Protecting communities** by creating natural firebreaks and removing flammable vegetation around populated areas
- **Increasing** forest health to reduce wildfire intensity through management (thinning, prescribed burns)
- **Improving** early detection and disaster response through early warning systems
- **Upgrading** fire fighting equipment, evacuation routes, and shelter availability to enhance safety





Fire Breaks:

TOWN OF WINDSOR GREENBELTS SAVED LIVES

Kincade Fire, 2019 in Sonoma County, CA

- Regional park was a wildfire buffer
- Key land-use policy was Urban Growth Boundary to protect the open space



Extreme Heat

Occasional heat waves have always been a part of summer weather in most of the United States. However, because of climate change, the U.S. already has hotter temperatures and more frequent and intense heat waves.

In addition to climate change, **lack of green space and tree canopy**, coupled with other climate hazards like wildfire smoke, often result in California residents being **extremely vulnerable to extreme heat events**.

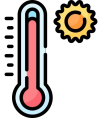
Funding Extreme Heat Protections through Proposition 4

Of the climate resilience funding provided by Proposition 4, \$400 million will go to protecting California from extreme heat:

- **Supporting communities** through the establishment of new cooling and resilience centers across the state
- **Grants** for local areas to provide programs to reduce air pollution
- **Greening projects** to increase tree canopy and coverage, planting new trees, creating new parks and green spaces



Bay Area Example: Gilroy



EXTREME HEAT - Lack of green space and tree canopy, coupled with poor housing conditions, existing public health issues, and temperatures often reaching past 100 degrees in the summer results in Gilroy residents being extremely vulnerable to extreme heat events.



WILDFIRE - Approximately 28% of Gilroy is ranked as a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard zone. Previous wildfires have resulted in forced evacuations, the destruction of homes and businesses, and exposed residents and outdoor workers to harmful smoke impacts.



SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES - Gilroy's multiple climate hazards will disproportionately impact the city's low-income, cost-burdened, agricultural, and Latinx communities.

Thank you!

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